

A NATIONAL NATIVE MONUMENT

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SUMMARY STATEMENTS FEBRUARY 1990

...The Assembly of First Nations will support your personal endeavors and thank you for your commitment towards realizing this goal. First Nations in Canada duly and respectfully encourage the support from our brothers and sisters in this country. (George Erasmus, Ntl. Chief, Assembly of First Nations)

...the creation of a permanent monument in the National Capital Region in recognition of the many contributions native people have made in Canada is a timely project. ...I wish you success with this project and look forward to the unveiling of a National Native Monument in the National Capital Region. (Pierre H. Cadieux, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development)

...thank you for your letter in which you outline your proposal for a National Native Monument, which I am very supportive of. (Wilton Littlechild, M.P. Wetaskiwin Alberta)

...offer my full support for your efforts to establish a tangible symbol of the respect and esteem we have for native Canadians. Their contribution, historic and current is highly significant and worthy of an equally significant monument. On behalf of all those who stand to benefit from the successful completion of this project, I thank you for your efforts. (John C. Crosbie, Minister of International Trade)

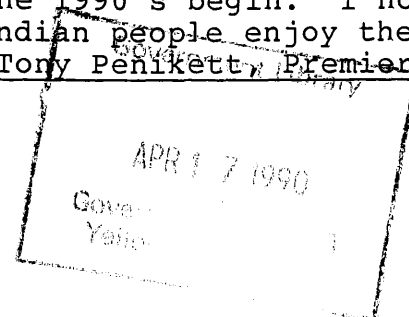
...I agree with the concept that it is important to have some kind of symbolic recognition in the nations capital recognizing the contributions native people have made to the development of Canada. (Ethel Blondin, Western Arctic, M.P.)

...she supports the creation of a National Native Monument. (J. Tripp for Audrey McLaughlin, Yukon, M.P. & new N.D.P. Leader)

...My New Democrat colleagues and I support your project and I am pleased to return to the completed form in support for the creation of a national native monument. (Ed Brodbent, Leader, N.D.P. Party)

...This initiative is most commendable and is symbolic of our recognition. As first inhabitants, their undeniable contribution to the foundation and evolution of our country deserves to be acknowledged. ...I am therefore pleased to support this undertaking which constitutes a tribute to these nations for the role they played in our history. (Borbert Bourassa, Premier, Quebec)

... A monument will remind us of the past contributions of aboriginal people from across the land. ...It is unfortunate that such a reminder is still needed as the 1990's begin. I hope the monument will depict a future where Indian people enjoy the equality and rights as other Canadians. (Tony Penikett, Premier, Yukon Territory)



...2...

...My government and I recognize the important contributions made by Aboriginal peoples, both historically and in the present-day. We are very supportive of acknowledging the unique heritage of Canada's Native citizens. I would support in principle any initiative which would foster awareness, both to fellow Canadians and the international visitors, of Native history and culture. (Grant Devine, Premier of Saskatchewan)

...The symbolic recognition of the contributions of Aboriginal people to Canada is a concept that I support, and this project, the creation of a national native monument, may enhance public awareness and appreciation of these contributions. (William N. Vander Zalm, Premier, British Columbia)

...your proposal has some merit providing that the campaign is also widely supported by Native people. The proposed monument would be very useful in recognizing the important role that aboriginal people have played in the development of Canada. (David Peterson, Premier, Ontario)

...aboriginal peoples also made a great contribution by sharing their homeland and having their traditional way of life affected so dramatically. Your proposal to commemorate this valued contribution will symbolize the intent of Canada's people to continue to work towards greater recognition and justice for Canada's first inhabitants. (Gary Filmon, Premier, Manitoba)

...the First Nations must be acknowledged and accepted as significant players in the founding and growth of this country. A National Native Monument would indeed be an important symbol of mutual respect between native and non-native peoples, not to mention a beacon to all Canadians of the important and indeed essential contribution made by the founding peoples. (Roy McMurtry, former Ambassador to England)

...I support your proposal and wish you the very best success. (Pauline Browes, Scarborough Centre M.P.)

...I support in principle a monument in our nations capital which would recognize and symbolize the many indigenous peoples of Canada. (Ken Hughes, McLeod, Alberta, M.P.)

...Our people have a long history in the fight for recognition of aboriginal rights, and we continue our struggle for land claims and control and jurisdiction over our traditional lands. We agree that a monument commemorating the contributions of our native brothers and sisters to the building of Canada should be built in our nations capital. (Henri Lock, Minister, Pierce Memorial Church, Kispiox Village, B.C.)



...3...

...native Canadians are due a more respectful place in our history. ...a monument dedicated to native peoples can definitely contribute in a most significant way towards this goal. ...generations of the future would benefit greatly by the building of such a monument .. it could only enhance our national identity. (Dr. Rey D. Pagtakhan, Winnipeg North, M.P.)

...a national native monument is both appropriate and timely. (Iain Angus, Thunder Bay - Atikokan, M.P.)

...I share your concern with respect to the preservation of culture and heritage in this country and believe that such a monument would contribute greatly to the preservation of Canadian native heritage. (Jerry Pickard, Essex-Kent, M.P.)

...I recognize the importance of building Canadian awareness of native contributions and sacrifices. (Ray Funk, Churchill River, Manitoba, M.P.)

...perhaps now is an excellent time to have such a monument included in the plans for the renovation and landscaping of the Center Block. (Margaret Mitchell, Vancouver East, M.P.)

...I appreciate the critical importance of developing a clear understanding of the contributions and sacrifices of Indian communities. A National Native Monument located in Ottawa is an excellent start. (Ron Fisher, Saskatoon-Dundurn, M.P.)

(THIS IS ONLY A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE COMMENTS MADE BY THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED SINCERE SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL NATIVE MONUMENT)